

I, U Aung Min, Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law, residing at Rangoon, Burma, solemnly affirm and state as follows:-

Prior to the occupation of Burma by the Japanese forces, I was a school master at the Myoma National High School, Rangoon.

In October, 1943, I was offered by the Burmese Administration, set up as the Independent Government of Burma, the appointment of officer in charge of labour on the Burma-Siam Railway, with headquarters at Moulmein. I assumed charge of the office on 15th October, 1943, and remained at Moulmein till the end of October, 1945. For the period following the Japanese surrender, I was asked by the British Military Administration to carry on.

When I arrived at Moulmein to take charge, the railway had been newly opened and the labourers recruited thereafter were for maintenance and repairs. My duties were to safeguard the interests of the labourers and to ensure that they received reasonable treatment from the Japanese authorities.

There had been several recruitments of labour on the Railway project before my time. Labourers were originally recruited to what was known as the "Sweat Army". Later as undesirable notoriety came to be associated with the "Sweat Army", labourers were recruited to the Labour Service Corps. Complete records were not maintained of first four recruitments to the Labour Service Corps and no records at all were kept of the recruitments to the "Sweat Army". The recruitment which was in progress when I arrived at Moulmein was the sixth and there were altogether 14 recruitments to the Labour Service Corps before the Japanese surrender.

In theory, enrolment to the Labour Service Corps, as also to the Sweat Army, was on a voluntary basis. In the early days of recruitment to the sweat Army, highly tempting promises of benefits made recruitment on a voluntary basis fairly successful; but when these promises failed to be implemented and reports of very unsatisfactory conditions at the labour camps seeped through, from labourers who escaped from them, it became impossible to obtain the required number of labourers on voluntary basis. The failure to release labourers who were recruited expressly for a term of three months at the camp also had an adverse effect on recruitments. It may be stated that ~~the~~ no labourer was discharged at the end of three months at the camps. Only those who could not be used any more were discharged and 75 per centum of those discharged were total wrecks and many of them died on the way to their homes.

Retaining the pretence of voluntary recruitment, compulsion was later ^{largely} ~~legally~~ resorted to. The system adopted was for the Army to state its requirements to the Burmese Administration, which would fix for each district its quota of labourers to be sent in; at the headquarters of each district, a Japanese officer was stationed; and this Japanese Officer as a representative of the Army had to be obeyed by the district officers of the Burmese Administration. To complete the quota allotted to each district, people on their way to the paddy fields, to markets and to other places of legitimate business were very often seized with the assistance of police officers, taken thereafter to the police station where they were sometimes detained in custody for as long as two months and later taken under police and military escort to labour camps on the Railway project. Many of them arrived at Moulmein on their way to the labour camps with no change of clothings, so suddenly and unexpected had they been pressed into the labour corps. Some of these victims of the press-gang managed to escape from custody either on their way to Moulmein or later on their way to the labour camps.]

In respect of the first four recruitments to the Labour Service Corps, following figures are available:

1st. recruitment: Army authorities wanted 302000 labourers; 26009 labourers were collected in the various district of which 21964 arrived at labour camps, 4045 having escaped on the way.

2nd. recruitment: Army authorities wanted 21000 labourers and 11174 appeared to have arrived at the labour camps.

3rd. recruitment: Of 20000 labourers called for 9279 were shown to have arrived at labour camp.

4th recruitment: Of 15000 labourers called for 7724 were shown to have arrived at labour camps.

The records for 5th to 14th recruitments are more complete and disclose the following facts:-

5th recruitment: The number demanded was 15000; 9174 were collected from various district: 3135 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 1035 escaped on the way to labour camps; 1 died on the way; and 256 were found physically unfit. 4747 labourers were set to work as a consequence.

6th recruitment: 10000 labourers were demanded: 7317 were collected; 2985 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 291 escaped on their way to labour camps; and 103 were physically unfit. 3938 labourers were set to work out of this recruitment.

7th recruitment: 10000 labourers were demanded; 20475 were collected; 6546 escaped on their way to Moulmein; 1676 escaped on the way to labour camps; 1 died on the way; and 319 were physically unfit. 11933 were set to work.

8th recruitment: 10000 labourers were demanded and 6112 were collected; 3881 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 402 escaped on the way to labour camp; 2 died on the way; and 52 were physically unfit. 1995 were set to work.

9th recruitment: 10000 labourers were demanded; 8184 were collected; 4732 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 1697 escaped on the way to Labour camps; and 14 were physically unfit. 1740 were set to work.

10th recruitment: 11000 labourers were demanded; 8644 were collected; 3552 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 801 escaped on the way to labour camps; 3 died; and 66 were physically unfit. 4222 were set to work.

11th recruitment: 10000 were demanded; 10743 were collected; 5067 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 495 escaped on the way to labour camps; and 174 were physically unfit; 5007 went to work.

12th recruitment: 5200 were demanded; 4291 were sent to Moulmein 1658 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 685 escaped on the way to labour camp; and 102 were physically unfit. 1846 went to work.

13th recruitment: 5100 were demanded; 4519 were collected; 1324 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 438 escaped on the way to labour camp; and 35 were physically unfit. 2722 went to work.

14th recruitment: 5000 were demanded; 4907 were collected; 1240 escaped on the way to Moulmein; 101 escaped on the way to labour camps; and 46 were physically unfit; 3520 went to work.

The total demanded on the 14 recruitments was for 177500 labourers and 91834 persons actually went to work at various labour camps. These figures are exclusive of the recruits to the "Sweet Army".

Once the labourers reached the camps where they were to be set to work, they came under sole charge of the Japanese authorities and though there were Burmese camp officers subordinate to me at these camps, whose duties were to do their best to ameliorate the conditions of the labourers their authority was negligible. These Burmese officers were not allowed to maintain independent records in respect of the labourers and figures supplied by the Japanese overseers of

labourers had to be accepted. The Japanese authorities did not approve of Burmese officers inspecting the works area. When I first arrived at Moulmein, the Japanese authorities would not allow me to visit the labour camps on the project; and it was only later on several representatives being made through the Burmese Government at Rangoon, that I could in the two years at Moulmein, visit labour camp on five occasions.

The figures supplied by the Japanese authorities in respect of 91834 labourers delivered to them are highly discrepant. 9161 were reported to have died at work; 8364 were reported to have been discharged from labour camps; and 5176 were reported to have been discharged from ~~labour~~ hospitals ^{hospitals} and sent back to their homes. At the Japanese surrender and in the two months following, when at the request of the British Military Administration, I continued in charge, I could trace approximately 5000 labourers at the various camps. Over 60000 persons are so far unaccounted for.)

As a result of the activities of representatives of the Burmese Administration at Moulmein and at the camps since December, 1942, conditions at the labour camps had improved a good deal when I took charge. I found the barrack; for housing labourers at the camp neatly constructed and roomy. No camp had more than 700 labourers at it.

Food and clothings, however, were not satisfactory. Food supply was bad and insufficient. Gunny bags were usually supplied to the labourers to serve both as apparel and blankets.

Till about the middle of 1944, medical facilities were very scanty. There were a few hospitals set up by the Army along the route at some distance apart; and people in need of medical attention had to walk all the way to the nearest hospital which would be several miles away. And usually, labourers were not excused from work unless they were in a very bad condition physically. Later, the Burmese Administration provided medical attendants at each camp; but medical supplies were very short; and at most camps, quinine, stomach powder and a lotion for skin diseases were the only medical stores made available by the Army.]

SEAL OF THE COURT OF THE 3RD
ADDITIONAL MAGISTRATE - RANGOON
31/7/46.

/s/ Aung Min
31/7

Identified by me:- /s/ E. Maung
Advocate-General
Burma

Affirmed before me, this 31st. day of July, 1946.

Doc 5372

私「文学士、法学士、バタエラー、オブ、アーツ、バタエラー、オブ、ロウナル
ウー、アウング、ミシ」ハ緬甸ノ蘭貢ニ任シ嚴肅ニ尤、如ク確言シ
且ツ陳述致シマス。日本軍ニヨル緬甸ノ占領前、私ハ学校教師
デアリマシタ。

一九四三年十月ニ私ハ緬甸ノ独立政府トシテ成立シタ。緬甸政府ニ
依リ「モールメイシ」ニ本部ヲ有スル緬泰鉄道、勞務ヲ担当スル
役人ニ任命シタト云フ申出ヲ受ケマシタ。私ハ一九四三年十月十五日ニ
就任致シマシテ一九四五年十月ノ末日マデ「モールメイシ」ニ滞在シマシタ。

私が就任ノ為メ「モールメイシ」ニ到着シタ時、鉄道ハ新ラシク
開通シテ居リマシテ、之ヲ後募集サレマシタル勞働者ハ鉄道、
保護ト修理用ノ者デアリマシタ。私職務ハ勞働者ノ利益ヲ
保護シ彼等ガ日本ノ當局者ヨリ合理的ノ取扱ニ受ケルコトヲ
確カメルコトデアリマシタ。

私、就任ヨリ前ニモ鉄道ノ業上數回モ勞働者ノ募集ガ
有リマシタ。勞働者ハ元來「汗部隊」トシテ知ラレテ居ツタト
コロニ募集サレマシタ。之、後好マシカラザル思評判ガ「汗部隊」
ニ立ツタ、デ勞役隊ト云フ名前デ勞働者ヲ募集シマシタ。
勞役隊、最初、四回、募集ニ就テ完全ナル記録ハ残サレテ
居リマセシ。而シテ「汗部隊」募集ニ就テハ何等ノ記録モ

保存サレテ居リマセシ。私が「モールメイシ」ニ到着シタ時進行中
デアツタ募集ハ第六回目ノモノデアリマシテ、日本降伏以前ニ
總テ十四回ノ勞働團ノ募集ガアリマシタ。

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規則ニ勞務團ヘノ登録モ「汗部隊」ト同シク志願制ニテアリシ。
「汗部隊」ヘノ募集、初期ニ於テハ大ニ誘惑的、自思思フ契約
シタノデ志願制ノ募集ヲ相當ニ成功サセマシタ。然シ之等、
契約ガ履行セラレズシテ勞働者宿舍ニ於ケル非常ニ不満足
ナル状態、噂ガ宿舍カラ逃ゲ出シタ勞働者ヨリ漏シタノデ志願
制デハ所要、勞働者ヲ得ルコトハ不可能ニナリマシタ。之、勞働
者宿舍勤務ヲ以テ確ニ參ケ月ノ期間トシテ募集サレタ勞働者ヲ
之期間ニ解僱シタツタ年モ亦募集上及対効果ヲ與ヘマシタ。
之、勞働者宿舍ニ於テ參ケ月ノ末ニ解僱サレタ勞働者ハ多ク
ツタト言ヒ得ルデシヤ。現至以上更ニ使用シ得ザル者ノミガ
解僱サレ、大等、解僱サレタ者、七割五合ハ全々、癩疾者デ
之、多クハ帰宅、途ニ死亡シマシタ。表面上志願募集ヲ
維持シタカラ強制徵募ハ後日大ニ的ニ爲ハレマシタ。
之、採用サレタ法式ハ軍隊ガ緬甸政府ニ対シテ要求ヲ指定シ
政府、其必要、勞働者、割當ヲ各地方ニ対シテ定ムルデス。
各地方ノ事務ハ日本、將校ガ駐在シテ居テ軍隊代表
トシテ、此、日本將校ハ緬甸政府ノ地方官吏ハ服従シタレバナ
ラズデシタ。各地方ハ、割當ヲ完了スル爲メ、箱田ニ通フ
途ニ、人々、市場ヤ之、他正業、場所ニ赴ク人々ハ該管
官ノ助力ニ依リ、極メテ頻繁ニ捕ヘラレ、之後該管署署長
連行サレ、之等デ時トシテハ二月程モ拘留セラレ然レ後
警察官及ビ軍隊、護衛、下ニ鐵道事業、勞働者宿舍ニ
連行サレマシタ。彼等、多クハ衣類、着替ヘ等ニ勞働
者宿舍ヘノ途上モールズニ到着シマシタ。極メテ突然ニ又

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Doe

意外モ彼等ハ例ノ勞役隊ニ押シ込マルタデス。之等強制勞働者タル犧牲者、或ル者ハ「モールメイン」へ來ル途中、若シクハ後日勞働者宿舎へ入途ニ於テ拘束カラ脱出シマシタ。

十四回ニ亘ル募集ニ要求サレタ全人数ハ一七五〇人ノ勞働者デアリマシタ。九一八四人ハ現実ニ各処ノ勞働宿舎ニ於ケル勞役ニ赴キマシタ。夫等ノ数字ハ「牙部隊」へノ募集ヲ除外シタモノデス。

一五回ノ勞働者達が仕ラサル場所ノ宿舎ニ到着シマス。彼等ハ全ク日本當局者ノ指揮下ニ入ルデアリマス。而シテ之等ノ宿舎ニハ私ニ從屬スル緬甸人ノ宿舎勤務ノ役人が居リマシタ。夫等ノ人ノ職務ハ勞働者ノ條件ヲ改善スルノニ彼等ノ改善ヲ盡スコトデアリマシタ。彼等ノ權限ハ取ルニ足ラナイモノデアリマシタ。之等緬甸人ノ役人ハ勞働者關係ノ獨自ノ記録ヲ保持スルコトヲ許容サレズ、日本人ノ勞働者監督人ニ依リ與ヘラレタル数字ヲ承認サレバナリマセンデシタ。日本當局者ハ緬甸人官吏が作業區域ヲ視察スルコトヲ承認シマセンデシタ。私ガ「モールメイン」ニ初メテ到着シタ時、日本當局ハ鐵道事業ノ勞働者宿舎ヲ見ニシタコトヲ許シマセンデシタ。而シテ私ノ「モールメイン」ニ於ケルニ於テ、期間内ニ私ガ五回勞働者宿舎ヲ見ニシタコトが出来タ。ハ蘭貢ニ於テ緬甸政府ニ依リ數名支派ヲ遣ハシタ。後、之ヲデアリマシタ。日本當局ニ引渡サレタル九一八四名ノ勞働者ニ關シテ、彼等ノ數字ハ非常ニ矛盾セルモノデアリマス。九一六一名ハ就業中ニ死亡シ、八三六四名ハ

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Doe

労働者宿舎ヨリ解傭セラレ、而シテ五二七六名ハ病院ヨリ
解傭サレテ彼等ノ家庭ニ送リ送サレタト報セラレマシタ。
日本ノ降伏、時及ビ夫レニ續クニ月間英國陸軍行政機関、
要求ニ依リ私ガ職務ヲ繼續シマシタ時、私ハ各処ノ宿舎デ、
約五千名ノ労働者ヲ追認スルコトが出来マシタ。六万人以上、
人ガ今日マデ約先不明デス。

然シ食物及ビ衣服ハ満足デ有リマセンデシタ。食物、供給ハ
悪シタ。不充足デアリマシタ。黄麻織物ノ成ハ衣類及ビ毛布
代用トシテ労働者ニ供給サレルガ常デシタ。一九四四年、半バ頃ニ
至ルマデ医療、設備ハ非常ニ乏シクアリマシタ。若干ノ距離
ヲ隔テテ道路ニ沿ヒ軍隊ニ依リテ設ケラシタル小数ノ病院ガ有
リマシタガ診療ヲ要スル人々ハ数哩隔リタル至リ、病院迄
全行程ヲ歩行シタケレバナリマセンデシタ。ソシテ常ニ労働者ハ
肉体的ニ非常ニ悪イ状態デナレバ仕事ヲ断ルヲ許サレマセン
デシタ。後ニ至リ緬甸政府ハ各宿舎ニ医師ヲ置クコトニ致シ
マシタ。然レ医療要員ノ供給ハ非常ニ不足デアリ、大概、
宿舎ニ在テハフクワイタイニ月々賜サレ及ビ皮膚病ノ、洗剤
又ガ軍隊カラ支給サレタ医薬品デアリマシタ。

No. 4